

Commodity Exchange of India

4579. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has given approval for setting up a Commodity Exchange of India at Cochin, Kerala for trading in copra and coconut oil;

(b) if so, whether this Exchange would function as a Multi-commodity exchange; if so, what other agricultural produce would be traded here;

(c) what are the trading and delivery features to be adopted by the Exchange;

(d) how far this Exchange would benefit the farmers/growers of plantation crops/oilseeds; and

(e) whether the Centre would consider approving such exchanges to be set up in Tiptur/Udupi, Karnataka for trading in copra and coconut oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, *vide* Notification No.S.O.91 (E) dated the 1st February, 2001, have granted recognition to the First Commodities Exchange of India Ltd., Kochi, for Forward Contracts in copra, coconut oil and oilcakes for a period of 5 years from the 1st February, 2001 to 31st January, 2006. However, actual trading is yet to commence at the Exchange.

(c) The Bye-Laws of the Exchange envisage the adoption of modern trading practices prevalent internationally like electronic trading, 50% representation of non-trade interest on the Board of Directors, provision of an independent clearing house, etc.

(d) The farmers/growers of plantation crops/oilseeds would be benefited by advance information on future (Price discovery), price risk management and hedging facilities provided by futures trading.

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RAJYA SABHA

(e) To start with, the Government have decided to permit futures trading in copra, coconut oil and its oilcakes only at one Exchange i.e. the First Commodities Exchange of India Ltd., Kochi.

Mad-Cow Disease

4580. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) has declared India as posing risk to people from Mad-Cow disease;

(b) whether UNFAO has also found India to be under threat of contagious cattle diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest and brucellosis, which are rampant in various parts of India;

(c) whether some Middle East countries have banned import of Indian meat because of widespread rumours that foot-and-mouth disease is highly prevalent in India; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to check such infliction among our livestock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No communication about the presence of mad-cow disease in India from Food & Agriculture Organisation of United Nations (UNFAO) has been received. Mad-Cow disease has not been reported in the country so far. India has been declared free from rinderpest since March, 1998. Sporadic occurrence of foot and mouth disease and brucellosis is reported throughout the year.

(c) Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have issued Ministerial Decree temporarily suspending import of meat as a precautionary measure and will examine the food and mouth disease situation in India. Jordan, has not announced any ban. However, they have stopped issuing licenses for import of meat from India.

(d) The Central Government provides grants to States for